

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



June 17, 2020

Phase 2 of the Safe Start Plan

Effective June 5, Pierce County moved into Phase 2 of Governor Inslee's Safe Start Recovery Program. This means restaurants, fitness facilities, hair and nail salons in University Place can reopen under certain precautions.

Although this second stage relaxes some of the previous restrictions enacted to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Jennifer Hales, emergency operations coordinator and public safety administrator for the City of University Place, urges the public to continue to follow the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's recommendations. These include:

- Wearing face coverings in public settings when it is difficult to maintain six feet of physical distance from others.
- Washing hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Limiting social interactions to five friends or non-household members you want to see regularly.
- Continuing to stay home as much as possible and limiting non-essential travel.
- Disinfecting doorknobs, counters, toilet handles and other frequently touched surfaces regularly.
- Those who are 65 years or older, with medical conditions, or who are immune compromised, should check with their health care providers regarding social interactions with those outside their household.

A successful Safe Start means we all have to do our part.

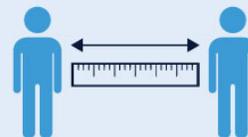
It's safest to stay home.

BUT IF YOU HEAD OUT:

Wear a mask.



Stay six feet apart.



Wash your hands.



Prevent the spread by staying local.

"We recognize that everyone is anxious to get back to some semblance of normalcy, but if we fail to do that carefully, cases of COVID-19 may begin to climb again," Hales said. "The Health Department puts out a blog post at least once a week and the information provided is very thoughtful and appropriate. It

also helps residents stay in the loop about current recommendations.” Those who are interested can **sign up for the blog post**.

*Here is a complete list of **businesses that have relaxed restrictions under Phase 2** and details about how they can operate.*

Chief's Corner

Amid all the troubling news of late, I'd like to take a minute to share some **good** news and to say thank you to the residents and businesses of University Place.

These last few months have been difficult for everyone and especially for the officers in your police department. They faced new challenges and demanding schedules as they continued to serve this community through the pandemic. The events of the last few weeks have created even more challenges, as we've watched coverage in the media and heard local community members provide their thoughts about the actions of police in other jurisdictions.



Yet we've also received notes of appreciation and words of encouragement from countless residents and businesses. We've seen waves and heard "thank yous" as we drive around town. And because of your generosity, we may have even put on a few "pandemic pounds."

We have received *lots* of goodies dropped off at the station for us. There were meals from our pizza parlors (Steph's Pizza and Little Caesars), goodie bags from our neighbors (at Hearthside Manor Assisted Living) and tons of treats and notes from citizens across U.P.

Last Saturday, we were able to participate in the Curtis High School Graduate Car Tour. We were grateful to be able to congratulate our seniors and wish them good luck in the future when they finished the tour and enjoyed refreshments sponsored by Green Firs businesses (Starbucks, Safeway and Trader Joe's). It was an awesome event for our graduates and also provided a great reminder of the strong sense of community we have in this city.

All of these gestures have meant a lot to everyone in our department.

As you might expect, over the last few weeks I have received many questions about police reform. I appreciate those questions because they give me an opportunity to explain to people that most, if not all, of the reforms being proposed are already in place here in U.P. (and across Washington). This doesn't mean that officers never make mistakes. What it does mean is that our officers are properly trained, incidents are effectively reported, and complaints are fully investigated.

I think that is why we see the level of community engagement and support for

our work in U.P. And you have my word that we will continue to work together to ensure that all citizens trust and value their police department.

Thank You University Place!

Riding Strong

Anyone who has been by the Village at Chambers Bay during the COVID-19 shutdown may have noticed that Trek Bikes has been a flurry of activity. Having qualified as an essential business within the transportation category, the store has been open since Governor Inslee announced the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order on March 23.



In fact, the U.P. Trek store has seen business take off since the shutdown, with Store Manager Isaiah Stanley reporting that the business has attracted scores of new customers. "I can't even tell you how many bikes we have sold over the phone," he says. Some of those bikes have been sold to cycling enthusiasts who are familiar with the Trek brand, but Stanley says they have also gained many new customers, including families who found the shutdown was a good time to invest in new bikes or bike repairs so they could ride together.

In addition to selling bikes, the U.P. Trek store has continued to offer inspections and repairs of all bikes (not just Treks) during the shutdown. And as added incentives, they have thrown in free bike washes, curbside pick-up and home delivery.

Stanley says one of the biggest challenges of COVID-19 requirements are how they have forced Trek to make adjustments to its basic business model. "We like to think of ourselves as a hospitality company, not just a bicycle company. So things like social distancing, limits on the number of people we can have in the store at one time and not being able to do test rides have been challenging," he says.

But thanks to a robust commitment to customer service that includes a personal call to each new bike purchaser and repair services regardless of bike manufacturer, Stanley says his store is working to not only survive the pandemic, but generate a whole new customer base as a result of it.

New Sidewalk Construction Begins on Cirque Drive

Construction of new sidewalks and safety improvements has begun along Cirque Drive between 83rd Avenue and Grandview Drive. This

project is the final piece of an eight-year effort to improve the safety and mobility of all users along Cirque Drive throughout the city.

This project will result in a safer street for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike, by providing new sidewalks, street lighting, marked crosswalks, improved drainage, and landscaping along this busy street. This project is funded through a \$1.8 million grant from the Federal Highway Administration.



Construction is anticipated be completed by the end of the year. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact the University Place Engineering Department at 253.460.2526.

Curtis High School Class of 2020 Graduation Tour

This year the Curtis Senior High School Class of 2020 celebrated their graduation in atypical fashion, with a Graduation Car Tour Parade throughout the city that was filled with Viking pride. The entire community came out in socially distanced droves to honor and pay tribute to this special class of students who have had their final year of public education shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic. For a few celebratory hours, it was all about the Senior Class of Curtis High School.

Beginning at Curtis Senior High, students and their loved ones lined up in blue and white decorated cars and were met by their teachers, school board and UPSD staff who delivered their diplomas with well-deserved congratulations. Seniors then began the parade route that traveled for three miles through the city, ending near West Pierce Fire & Rescue, where more local businesses, elected officials and first responders met them with snacks, treats and cheers of 'well-done'! The energy and excitement could be felt by all who witnessed and participated in this innovative celebration for our local graduates and the community couldn't be any more proud of our 2020 Viking graduates. Congratulations!

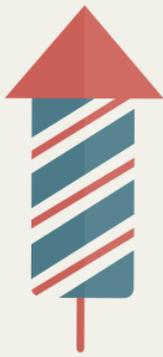


Celebrate Safely

As we move through the recovery stages of the Safe Start program, Independence Day celebrations in the South Sound will be significantly different in 2020. Major events such as Tacoma's Freedom Fair and community fireworks shows in Lakewood and Steilacoom will not take place, therefore local fire department personnel are stressing the importance of safety for those who choose to discharge their own fireworks.

University Place

Fireworks Regulations



- ★ May be discharged **ONLY** on July 4 from 9 a.m. to 12 midnight.
- ★ May be purchased from noon on June 28 to 9 p.m. on July 4.
- ★ Must be 16 to purchase, possess and discharge; children under 16 must be under direct adult supervision.
- ★ Must be hand-held and ground based sparking devices which are non-aerial and non-explosive.

Residents of University Place are reminded that:

- Fireworks can only be discharged on July 4 between 9 a.m. to 12 midnight.
- Only hand-held and ground-based sparking devices which are non-aerial and non-explosive are deemed legal for discharge in the City of University Place. These include:
 - Fountains - Ground devices that emit showers of sparks several feet in the air.
 - Cones - A type of fountain in the shape of a cone.
 - Novelties - Snaps, snakes and poppers that often shoot white smoke

- or even multi-colored parachutes.
- Smokes - Items, including smoke balls and aerial items, that produce smoke instead of light or noise. These items are generally used during the daytime.
- Sparklers/Morning Glory - Handheld sticks with a coating of pyrotechnic material that creates sparks when lit. Morning Glory sparklers are a larger thin cardboard tube filled with powder.
- Fireworks must be purchased, possessed and discharged by persons 16 years of age or older. Children under 16 must be under direct adult supervision.
- Violations of the University Place fireworks law are infractions and could lead to a \$250 fine, plus fees, costs and assessments.

"This is going to be a challenging year for all of us who enjoy the 'oohs and aahs' of big fireworks displays," said Jennifer Hales, public safety administrator for the City of University Place. "Without professional pyrotechnic displays, more and more people are going to be tempted to do home shows. We encourage people to visit **Pierce County's dedicated fireworks page** for detailed information on how to stay safe—and that includes how to keep pets safe, too."

A Message from West Pierce Fire & Rescue

The 4th of July is nearly here and West Pierce Fire & Rescue would like to remind residents to celebrate safely, as this is the busiest day of the year for firefighters.

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is by attending a public display - period. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, most of the displays in the area have been canceled. Therefore, with more households celebrating the 4th of July at home, it is imperative to do it safely.



Please be smart and do not mix alcohol and explosives, keep children away from fireworks and be mindful not only about where you light your fireworks, but also where they will fall. As always, if you have been drinking, please do not drive.

For information on which fireworks are legal, discharge dates and times, and general safety tips, **please visit our Fireworks page.**

U.P. Virtual Council Meetings

City Council meetings play live at the time of the Council Meeting, typically first and third Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

To watch live, watch on your television on Click! (Rainier Connect) cable

channel 12 and Comcast cable channel 21 within the City of University Place city limits. Or watch live from any internet-connected device on **YouTube**.

City Council meetings play back every day at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Watch on Click! (Rainier Connect) cable channel 12 and Comcast cable channel 21 within the City of University Place city limits.

UNIVERSITY PLACE VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING



Monday, July 6, 2020
at 6:30 p.m.

WWW.CITYOFUP.COM



Visit the **City Website** for Council Meeting times and agendas.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT RESCHEDULED TO OCT. 6, 2020



How is your town's count going?

2020CENSUS.GOV/RESPONSE-RATES

[VIEW THE MAP >](#)



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University Place City Council



Mayor Caroline Belleci



**Mayor Pro Tem
Steve Worthington**



**Council Member
Javier Figueroa**



**Council Member
Kent Keel**



**Council Member
Ken Grassi**



**Council Member Pro Tem
Howard Lee**



**Council Member
Denise McCluskey**



**Council Member
Stan Flemming**

